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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION
FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Statement submitted by the Medical Women's International Association,
a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the
Economic and Social Council, category II

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* E/CN.6/1994/1.

Annex

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Medical Women's International Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, welcomes the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Women in urban areas: Population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and acquired immune deficiency syndrome" (E/CN.6/1994/3), and urges that measures be taken to end all forms of discrimination against women.

As women doctors, we are concerned that women's vulnerability arising from social, political and economic inequalities worldwide seriously affects their health throughout their lives. Women must not be denied the most fundamental of all human rights - health - defined by the World Health Organization as the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of health without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

Numerous studies have shown that women's health status has an important impact on the health of their children, the family, the community and the environment.

To guarantee health for women at all stages of their lives, health facilities should be made available and accessible and should respect the autonomy of the individual.

Governments must ensure that:

- (a) Health statistics are gender-specific;
- (b) Gender deficiencies in the utilization of health services and treatment are investigated;
- (c) Research on women-specific health problems and disease transmission is supported;
- (d) Strategies are developed to overcome gender deficiencies in the area of health.

Women must be actively involved in the planning, research and implementation of all such programmes.

Governments must ensure that women have the same access as men to affordable, curative, preventative and rehabilitative treatment.

Therefore, the Medical Women's International Association requests the Member States of the United Nations to fulfil and implement their commitments to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to ensure their basic human right to health.